



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Administrator Update

TO: Member Schools' Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators

FR: OHSAA Executive Director's Office

Ohio Health Director's Second Amended Sports Order Addendum

An addendum to the Ohio Department of Health Director's Second Amended Sports Order has been released and became effective at 12:01 p.m. today (Tuesday, March 2). The following is information on the addendum in a question-and-answer format. Please share this update with other interested administrators and coaches on your staff. The complete addendum to the Health Director's Second Amended Sports Order can be found here: <http://bit.ly/ODHOrderAddendum>, and the Second Amended Health Director's Sports Order from Sept. 25, 2020, can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2RWa1jh>.

Q. What does the 25 percent capacity limit for indoor events and 30 percent capacity limit for outdoor events entail?

A. Both capacity limits include spectators who sit in fixed, permanent seats in grandstands or bleachers. Participants, coaches, officials, cheerleaders, medical staff, game-day personnel and media do not need to count in that total.

Q. Is the increase in capacity limits automatic, or are there additional parameters that must be met in order for the capacity limits to be increased?

A. The addendum says that all other requirements and guidance in the Second Amended Sports Order remain in effect. The addendum also says that indoor venues are expected to employ filtration of MERV 13 or higher as soon as practically possible.

Q. With the OHSAA winter tournament currently ongoing, will all tournament sites automatically increase capacity limits to 25 percent?

A. No. The OHSAA is not requiring host sites to increase their capacity and is leaving the decision up to each tournament host. Some sites may believe they can only handle the lower capacity limits that were already in place and are not comfortable with modifying their plans and/or adding more personnel to help administer their contest. Each site shall determine the safe capacity limit for their facility.

Q. What are some of the key elements in the Second Amended Health Director's Sports Order that must be remembered?

- A. There mandates **must continue to be followed for winter and spring sports**:
- Participants not in the contest and coaches **ARE REQUIRED** to wear facial coverings on the sidelines.
 - Participants not in the contest and on the sidelines **ARE REQUIRED** to be socially distanced (as close to six feet apart as possible).
 - Outside of game play, players are **NOT PERMITTED** to have physical contact with their teammates (such as high-fives and handshakes). Coaches and other team personnel are also not permitted to have physical contact with players.
 - Non-participating players and cheerleaders in attendance **ARE REQUIRED** to be socially distanced and wear facial coverings.
 - Any spectators in attendance **ARE REQUIRED** to wear facial coverings and to be socially distanced.
 - Family and household members should sit together socially-distanced from other individuals/family/household groups.
 - Facilities/venues **ARE REQUIRED** to develop spectator pathways that allow for social distancing along with seating that includes staggered rows and six-foot social distancing between groups.
 - Facilities/venues **ARE REQUIRED** to install signage and communicate with spectators on social distancing, facial coverings and hygiene.
 - Facilities/venues **ARE REQUIRED** to designate a Compliance Officer who is responsible for the compliance with the Sports Order.
 - Facilities/venues **ARE REQUIRED** to disinfect and clean competition and high contact areas frequently.

Q. What will be the capacity limit for the OHSAA state girls and boys basketball tournaments that will be held at the University of Dayton?

A. The staff at the University of Dayton is working with its local health department and ultimately the Ohio Department of Health to attempt to increase its capacity limit for the OHSAA state basketball tournaments. What the final number will be is currently unknown. It is also not known at this time whether any additional tickets will be available for more than just the participating teams. The OHSAA will have an announcement on final plans soon.

Q. If capacity limits are increased, who will be given priority in for admission to the contest?

- A. First, all ticketing for OHSAA winter tournaments is being handled digitally by the OHSAA's digital ticketing partner, HomeTown Ticketing, and direct contact with the hosts and participating schools will come from the OHSAA Executive Director's Office. Secondly, allotments for OHSAA basketball tournament games will continue to be split 50/50 split between the participating schools. As has been done during fall and earlier winter tournaments, each school will have control on who can purchase tickets. The OHSAA is recommending that, at a minimum, tickets be made available to parents and family members of the participants with consideration also given to students. Again, additional information on ticketing is being shared directly with the hosts and participating schools.

Please note that whether or not a site increases capacity, **traditional student sections are still not permitted** since spectators not from the same household must maintain six-foot social distancing.

Q. What about modifications, requirements and recommendations for spring sports . . . when will schools be provided those documents?

- A. The OHSAA staff has developed sport-specific rules modifications and recommendations and general requirements and recommendations for schools when conducting interscholastic competition in spring sports, and these documents are currently in the hands of the Ohio Department of Health for final approval. Links to the sport-specific spring sports rules modifications and recommendations and general requirements and recommendations will provided to the membership as soon as we receive those back from the ODH.

Thank you for your attention to this information and for the service you are providing our student-athletes!